

"Though it was a natural thing for a mother to do, the Lord is not praising the natural affection, but the supernatural faith.

"Nature prompted; but faith compelled, constrained and enabled them to do what else their timidity would not have ventured upon."

"Faith rides a whirlwind, but it threads a needle; it climbs up to the throne of God, and yet it stands by a baby's cradle. It can obtain the promises, but it can sit down and twist bulrushes and boil bitumen and stir a tar pot to pitch a little ark if necessary."

"There is nothing faith cannot make noble when it touches it. You need not say I want to get away from my daily business or from my domestic concerns in order to show my faith. No, no, stop where you are and show it."

PERFECT TRUST.

We are the tiny fragments in the Eternal purpose which reaches out far beyond our range. Sometimes that purpose needs us in our activity, sometimes it wants us to stand aside and wait. We cannot tell, we cannot hope to be able to explain all that happens to us. How can we say when we are useful and when we are useless? How can we pronounce on the fitness or unfitness or anything that happens to us? How can we venture to declare "God is not dealing fairly with me; He has forgotten, He is neglecting, He ought to be using me better?"

Why fret at this increased ignorance? Enough to be sure that your little life, if it be but loyal in intention, has been caught up into the great Will of God, and fills an obscure place in the Eternal kingdom. You cannot tell how or why. Enough that though you cannot see how or why, yet He who uses you as His instrument is still the same who

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made Himself your servant and washed your feet. There, in that act, He verified to you His pity, care and love, and that verification He will forever renew. Surely, then, you can trust Him where you cannot follow Him? Surely you can trust Him when the same who watched and tended you now disposes of you in His good pleasure in ways that seem to you strange.

A SUCCESSFUL LIFE.

To succeed in life is a much more difficult matter than to succeed in any business enterprise. One may be very successful in his undertakings, and yet live a very unsuccessful life, while another may have many business failures, yet live a truly successful life. He who does the very best he can under all circumstances, who makes the most possible of every opportunity, saves his spare moments as though they were gold, and treasures up every bit of knowledge possible; who makes the most of his abilities; who helps

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his fellowmen at every opportunity; who gives the best of himself upon all occasions; who performs for the world excellent and honorable work; who has justly earned the property he has accumulated; who has been just and kind in his dealings, royal and true in his friendships—such a man is leading a truly successful life. Whether he has succeeded in his undertakings or failed, his life has been successful.

HE WAITED HIS TURN.

"Doctor, just an instant, please," exclaimed a caller at the office of a man of physic, as he caught sight of the physician disappearing in his private office.

"I'll see you shortly, sir," was the curt reply.

"But a second is all I want," persisted the caller.

"I'll see you directly, sir," with sternness.

The visitor took a seat in the general reception room, read the afternoon paper through, looked at the pictures, played with the dog and took a nap. After thirty minutes or more had passed the medicine man came out of his den, and with an air of condescension said to the visitor:—

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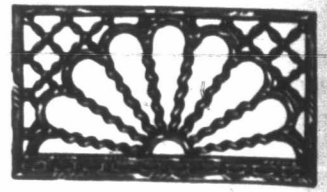
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the reply. "I just dropped in to tell you that your neighbour's three cows have escaped from the barn, and are having a picnic in your garden and flower beds."

—A little four-year-old was taken on a visit to grandmamma in the country. There, for the first time, he had a near view of a cow. He would stand and look on while the man milked, and ask all manner of questions. In this way he learned that the long crooked branches on the cow's head were called horns. Now the little fellow knew of only one kind of horn, and a few days after obtaining this information, hearing a strange kind of bellowing noise in the yard, he ran out to ascertain its cause. In a few minutes he returned, with wonder and delight depicted on his countenance, exclaiming: "Mamma, mamma! Oh, do come out here! The cow's blowing her horns!"

—All actions done from the same motive are alike in God's eyes. We are not all called to great service, but we are called to sympathetic interest in those who are so, and to help them as we may. It was a law in Israel: "As his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff." It is the law of Christ's kingdom, in which motives, not deeds, and spiritual susceptibility, not the accidents of the mode of its expression, determine place, capacity of receiving, and therefore, reward.

—"It is a great blessing to possess what one wishes," said some one to an ancient philosopher, who replied, "It is a greater blessing still not to desire what one does not possess!"

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